GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1949
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UN REPORT ON URBANISATION
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Economic and Social Commission (UNESC) for Asia and Pacific Region has reported that half of the population of India will be residing in urban areas by the year 2025;

(b) if so, the fact stated therein;

(c) the effective steps taken by the Government to check exodus of rural population and develop the basic infrastructure facilities in rural areas; and

(d) the details of rural population who are getting employment and other basic facilities and who are deprived of these?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) & (b) The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific region has brought out a report based on the Country Reports written by the Experts drawn from different Institutes of the countries of this region. In this report, it has been estimated that half of the population of the developing economies in the Asia-Pacific region will live in urban areas by 2025 because of Urbanisation and economic globalization. These projections have been made on the presumption that if the present global trend continues. Asia is poised to become world`s dominant economic powerhouse. The region is experiencing rapid economic growth, industrialization and urbanization which will result in changes and growth of the urban areas. Though, the report is for the Asia Pacific region, but India being a major country of this region is expected to play a leading role in the process of economic development and globalization.

(c) & (d) Keeping in view the challenges of economic development, more emphasis is being laid on developing the basic infrastructure, amenities and employment opportunities in the rural areas through our planning process. The Bharat Nirman having a time bound business plan to develop basic rural infrastructure of providing connectivity through Rural Roads, Drinking Water Supply, Rural Housing, Irrigation, Rural Electrification and Rural Telephone Connectivity are the steps which have been taken to build basic rural infrastructure. The launching of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and strengthening of the self-employment programme of Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) are the initiatives for providing employment in the rural areas. The other measures taken by the Government to provide the basic facilities in the rural areas include the strengthening of education facilities through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and basic health facilities through the National Rural Health Mission etc. All these steps are aimed to check exodus of rural population.

The programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development aim at reducing the poverty in rural areas through generation of employment and to improve the living conditions of rural masses. During the year 2006-07, more than 210 lakh households were provided employment of 90.40 crore persondays under the NREGS, about 42.39 crore mandays of employment were generated under the SGRY, total swarozgaris assisted through the programme of SGSY was 16.82 lakh and more than 14.98 lakh houses were constructed for the rural poor under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY).